

5/003/055

cc: Lynn



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Sawtooth National Forest  
Minidoka Ranger District

3650 South Overland Ave.  
Burley, ID. 83318-3242  
208-678-0430  
Fax: 208-677-4878

File Code: 2810

Date: April 3, 2007

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DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

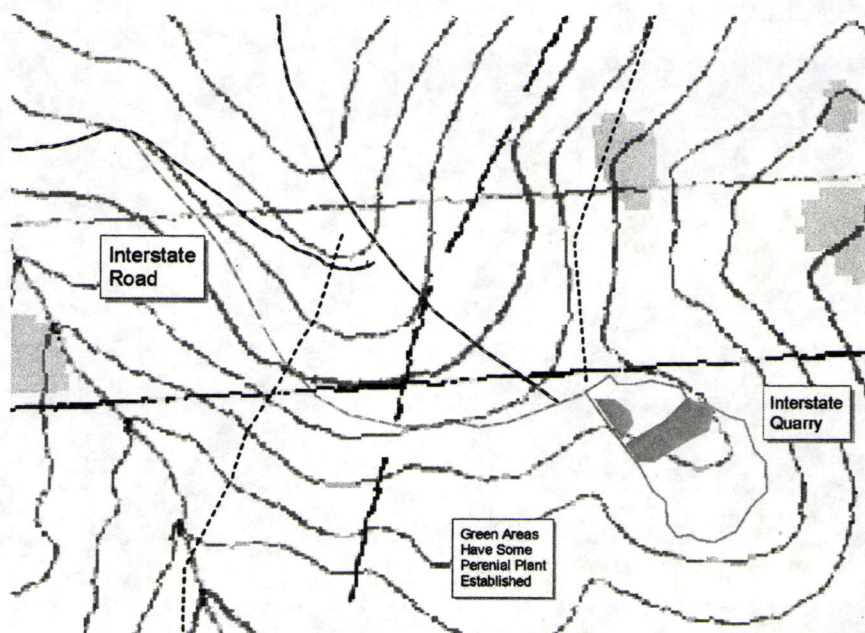
Michael Pauletto  
I&P Investments  
11204 NW 37th Court  
Vancouver, WA 98685

Dear Mr. Pauletto:

On February 28, 2007 you contacted our office to request that your file for Clarks Basin be closed. On March 26, 2007 an inspection was conducted on the Clarks Basin project area.

The inspector found that recontouring of the 1500 linear feet of access road and of the quarry area had been satisfactorily completed. Additionally, in 2005, the Dove Creek Quarry plan of operations was approved in which Dove Creek Quarries, LLC took reclamation responsibility of the remaining road that would provide access to their proposed Sunshine East and Vertical Cloud Quarries. As a result, no other reclamation earthwork is required for this plan of operations.

The inspector found that the revegetation of the site was not acceptable. Approximately 2.5 acres of the reclaimed quarry area (3.0 acres total) had only annual plant growth, primarily cheatgrass. The access road had some areas where sagebrush had naturally invaded and was doing extremely well, but the remainder of the road was primarily cheatgrass and other annuals including thistle.



Before this file can be closed, the cheatgrass must be controlled and perennial vegetation established on the majority of the site. The criteria for revegetation success is that disturbed





areas will have a minimum of 75 percent ground cover that has been maintained for 2 consecutive years over 90 percent of the area reclaimed and that the ground cover will be comparable to an adjacent reference area.

Please contact Lucas Phillips or Kevin Parker, Range Specialists, at this office for information and assistance in how to control the cheatgrass. It is advisable that the cheatgrass be sprayed with an herbicide, ideally Roundup or Plateau, that would allow seeding to be done in the Fall. Spraying may need to be done in the next few weeks to be effective against the cheatgrass. In controlling the cheatgrass, care should be taken to not impact areas where the sagebrush is becoming well established. Please contact our office for a recommended seed list. All herbicide application and seeding activities will need to be approved by this office prior to their initiation. The Forest Service and cooperating agencies do have the ability to apply herbicide, so you may want to contact Lucas or Kevin to see if they have crews available.

Because we cannot close the file at this time, a reclamation bond will still need to be in place to cover the cost of revegetation. Because the earthwork has been completed the bond can be reduced to \$3,150 from the original \$20,245 based on the following reclamation cost estimate:

*1 day herbicide application 10 hrs x 36.01 x 2 laborers (2002 FS R4 Cost Est. Guide)	= \$720
*1 day seed application 10 hrs x 36.01 x 2 laborers	= \$720
Seed Cost \$100.00/acre x 3.75 acres	= \$375
*Inspections/Monitoring 2 inspections x \$300/day	= \$600
*Contracting COR 2 days x \$250/day	= \$500
*Contractor Profit 13% of \$1815 (direct costs)	= \$235

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Steve Flock, Minerals Management Specialist, at the above address or telephone number.

Sincerely,



SCOTT C. NANNENGA  
Minidoka District Ranger

cc. Lynn Kunzler  
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
P.O. Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5801

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